

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Advancement

Date of Meeting: April 20, 2011

Agenda Item: Commencement Messages

Proposed
Policy Change

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

From time to time, members of the Board of Trustees Advancement Committee have reviewed proposed remarks for college and university commencements. This is an opportunity for committee members to discuss key points they wish to make during their greetings at commencements.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Linda Kohl, associate vice chancellor for public affairs

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

See attached.

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

INFORMATION ITEM

Commencement Messages

Background

From time to time, members of the Board of Trustees Advancement Committee have reviewed proposed remarks for college and university commencements. This is an opportunity for committee members to discuss key points they wish to make during their greetings at commencements.

The proposed messages are attached.

Commencement Greeting Key Messages

Member of the Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Spring 2011

The suggested greeting for trustees speaking at commencement ceremonies includes key system messages that emerged during a discussion recently among trustees. These key messages will help students, parents and guests know that the institution is part of a system that has a significant impact on Minnesota.

Trustees are encouraged to add brief personal comments, such as personal connections to the college or university, views on the importance of higher education, interesting programs or people they have met on the campus, or advice for the graduates. Keep in mind that the presidents emphasize it's best to be brief.

Key messages:

- **We want to be sure you know that (name of institution) is part of something much bigger, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. This system is composed of 32 state universities and community and technical colleges that work together efficiently and effectively.**
- **You have received a world-class education, which is supported by the people of Minnesota who have a longstanding belief in higher education. You could have paid more to attend a college or university elsewhere, but you could not have received a better education. Thank you, faculty and staff, for your dedication to your students.**
- **What drives our decisions as members of the Board of Trustees is our commitment to maintaining the quality of the student experience and to keeping our colleges and universities affordable and accessible. This is a top priority, especially during these difficult economic times.**
- **You may help support public colleges and universities on behalf of those who come after you.**
- **Our students represent many different backgrounds and often are the first in their families to graduate from college.**
- **Each year, we graduate nearly 35,000 students, and more than 80 percent of them stay in Minnesota to work or continue their education.**
- **Collectively, you represent the future. As graduates, you will contribute to the quality of life in Minnesota and build the workforce to keep the state and nation strong and competitive.**